



Meteor



Heraut

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Reminder



Sunday, March 26
Turn clocks forward one hour
Daylight Savings Time

Around USAG Benelux

Brussels



PHOTO: Thad Moyseowicz

Sgt. Shawn P. Crocker, a military pay technician serving at U.S. Army Garrison Brussels, talks with Lt. Gen. William "Kip" Ward, deputy commanding general U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, Mar. 14, during the general's visit to the garrison. Ward was recently named deputy commander of the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

USAG Schinnen



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen Commander Lt. Col. Richardson briefs Schinnen's workforce on issues, concerns, goals and projects that affect Schinnen employees, community members and the garrison during the Commander's Symposium held in the Andre Bruls Fitness Center March 8.

Command shares 'team' vision *Benelux employees glimpse at 'big picture'*



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Commander Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski and garrison staff held a town hall meeting Mar. 7 at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres for employees in the Chièvres Garrison area so everyone working in one of three garrison communities supporting three NATO Headquarters with assets located in six countries understand the "big picture" of "who we are and what we do."

By J.D. Hardesty

Meteor-Heraut Editor

The U.S. Army Garrison commander reached out to the workforce Mar. 7 at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base to share his vision and direction.

Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, USAG Benelux commander and his garrison staff gave the nearly 400 employees supporting more than 4,300 Americans and Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe a glimpse of his "big picture."

Benelux-wide, the garrison supports more than 18,000 people with quality of life services.

With the USAG Benelux providing support for NATO's major assets for Joint Force Command, Brunssum, The Netherlands, NATO Headquarters in Brussels and SHAPE in Casteau, Belgium, Nowowiejski explained the relationship the Benelux has supporting

See TOWN HALL, Page 3

GoArmyEd manages Soldier's Education

On-line learning to meet Soldiers' global mission

By J.D. Hardesty

Meteor-Heraut Editor

Earning college degrees while simultaneously meeting the Army's global mission will become easier April 1 with the implementation of GoArmyEd, a web-based system for all Soldiers to manage their educational needs.

For Soldiers currently using the EArmyU educational portal for on-line classes, all users will be automatically transferred to the new GoArmyEd system.

For Soldiers wishing to start their on-line education, they can register for a user name and password at EArmyU anytime prior to the April 1 implementation date without taking classes.

After the April transition date, users will



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Ela Karczewska, education services officer for SHAPE and Brussels discusses how the Army's new on-line learning portal, GoArmyEd, will help Soldiers earn their degrees anytime, anywhere with Lt. Gen. William "Kip" Ward, deputy commanding general U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, during his visit to USAG Benelux. Ward visited several Benelux support organizations during his Mar. 14 visit.

be required to take training on how to use the new portal prior to receiving access.

The portal will be operational for class registration and other educa-

tional utilities as of May 1.

"It will take one month before everything is transferred into the new system," she said.

According to Ela Karczewska, education services officer for SHAPE and Brussels, all Soldiers will no longer have to go to the education center to sign-up for college courses or to request tuition assistance.

"Signing up for classes will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but other services provided by the new portal will include researching for degree programs, class schedules, class registration and with-

drawal, check grades and a help desk," Karczewska said. "Additionally, commanders will sign a statement of understanding once a year to approve tuition

See GoArmyEd, Page 3



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski
USAG Benelux Commander

It's almost the time of the year when we officially recognize our many community volunteers, so once again we will devote this column to one of my

Nowowiejski Notes

favorite subjects – volunteerism.

There are a few facts that we should all keep in mind. First, our communities across the Benelux, at NATO HQ, Brussels, SHAPE, Chièvres, Brunssum, Geilenkirchen, Rheindahlen, Schinnen, Rotterdam, Bremerhaven, Molesworth, Luxembourg, and elsewhere, would all not work without volunteers. We depend upon volunteers to make up the bulk of our quality of life programs.

The government doesn't have the funds to pay for what volunteers do.

Depending on how you calculate it, the savings in the Benelux is either in millions of dollars a year or hundreds of positions that no resources exist to support.

Base operations funds are precious and scarce, so the dollars you save and reinvest in the community through volunteering are even that more important.

The array of activities supported by volunteers is vast, and at the risk of leaving a particular volunteer activity out, here are just a few of the constellation of activities that you support in the communities: Family Readiness Groups, American Forces Team Building, DoDDs schools, thrift shops, healthcare, coaching youth sports, scouting, Army Community Service, Child and Youth Service, spouse clubs, booster clubs, mentoring, chapel and religious education, and school advisory council.

This is an incomplete list, but look

at the variety of activities that volunteers support to make our Benelux communities better.

Even though we are constantly improving in our volunteer rates, there are a couple of areas worthy of your consideration for improvement.

First, if you are volunteering, please document your hours, so that we recognize and can account for your contribution. It helps the communities to garner resources when we can quantify the volunteer contribution.

Second, most activities are in constant need of volunteers, so if something in the list above peaks your interest or pricks your conscience, please donate an hour or two of your time next week to something you truly believe in.

Thank you. Please watch for notices of our volunteer recognitions over the course of the Spring.

McKiernan Sends #7-06

Accidents damage warfighting assets

1. Two of our Soldiers were killed last month in tragic accidents. One was a noncommissioned officer who died when he lost control of his motorcycle on a curve and slid into an oncoming car. He was an experienced rider and was properly licensed and trained to ride a motorcycle. He also had more than 20 years of riding experience and was known as a mentor and teacher of less-experienced riders. The other had just returned from Afghanistan and was killed when struck by a freight train. He and another Soldier were both hit after visiting local drinking establishments. In addition, two of our Apache helicopters were damaged in accidents. Fortunately the pilots were not seriously injured, but



General David D. McKiernan
CINC USAREUR

the multimillion dollar damage is a tremendous loss of warfighting assets. Each of these four accidents is different in nature, but what is common across all is loss of combat power.

2. The Army recently recognized USAREUR as a leader in accident reduction; but as we begin what is historically our most dangerous time of year, we are letting down our guard. We must take action now to prevent losing any more of our most precious assets: our Soldiers.

3. In a deliberate effort to save lives, I am releasing two safety campaigns this month:

□ The Army in Europe Summer 2006 Lifesaving Campaign. This campaign has been expanded beyond the scope of our previous summer safety campaigns to target the

broad range of issues our Soldiers face. In addition to traditional safety subjects, it includes Soldier wellness issues, such as high-risk drinking and suicide.

□ The Army in Europe Motorcycle Safety Campaign. This campaign targets motorcycle-related deaths and injuries. It also emphasizes the dangers of riding motorcycles and implements a composite risk management approach to managing these dangers.

4. Both campaigns need your support. Get involved in these campaigns and see where you can make a difference. In addition, continue to counsel junior Soldiers and leaders and help them make good safety decisions. Also continue to look out for one another, use the buddy system, and mentor those around you.

5. This is chain of command leader business, and our NCOs as always are our biggest factor in enforcing standards. Together we can and must make this summer a safe one. No Loss of Life continues to be our goal. We can achieve this goal by watching out for one another and by taking action to prevent future tragedies.

National Nutrition Month

Diet, exercise still key to being healthy

By Karen Traver
Registered Dietitian

Remember the fable about the tortoise and the hare? The moral of the story was, "slow and steady wins the race." It's the same with weight loss. A safe and reasonable rate of weight loss is one to two pounds per week.

Beware of pills and potions promising that you can lose 20 pounds in one month. "Eat all you want and lose weight." If these diet products really worked, then we would all be slender. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

One pound of fat is 3,500 calories. If you create a caloric deficit of 3,500 calories per week (subtract 500 calories each day for seven days), you will lose one pound of fat per week.

Subtract calories by watching what you eat and exercising. For example, if you normally drink two 12-ounce cans of regular (not diet) soda each day, that represents 270-300 calories. Start drinking water instead and you have subtracted calories.

That same day, get some exercise. A 190-pound person walking at a pace of three miles per hour for 60 minutes can burn 300 calories.

The same person running at five miles per hour for 30 minutes can burn 345 calories. The combination of a change in eating habits and an increase in physical activity creates a caloric deficit.

In theory, if you consume an extra 100 calories per day, and you do this every day, you will gain 10 pounds at

the end of the year. 100 calories per day multiplied by 365 days per year equals 36,500 calories or 10.4 pounds.

Happily, the same formula works in reverse.

Think about some painless ways you can skim 100 calories each day.

Here are some foods and beverages that contain about 100 calories each: one shot (1.5 fl. oz) of 80-proof alcohol, eight fluid ounces of unsweetened grapefruit juice, 2.5 teaspoons of vegetable oil, 6.6 teaspoons of sugar, just less than half of a Snickers bar, one tablespoon of mayonnaise, two tablespoons of apricot jam, 1/3 cup of vanilla ice-cream, about one half an order of small fries from Burger King, or 12.5 fl. oz of Gatorade.

This is not to demonize any particu-

lar foods, but to get you thinking about calories. All foods can fit into a healthful diet if used in moderation.

There is no need to banish certain foods forever; just enjoy them occasionally instead of every day.

Calories do count, and even fat-free or sugar-free foods still have calories, so use the nutrition facts label to investigate serving size and calories.

Consume fewer calories and move that body of yours! That's the secret of weight loss.

Don't throw in the towel – be persistent. You can do this, but you need to take the long view. Step Up to Nutrition and Health!

Sources:

www.nutritiondata.com
www.nutristrategy.com

TOWN HALL *continued from page 1*

NATO's minor assets - the Allied Rapid Response Corps, and training facilities, "support many of you have given through the years," he said to some of the employees that have supported NATO since it moved from France in the 1960s. "I thank you for your work and support as we continue to build a future here."

In addition to the six nations the Benelux currently supports, a seventh country - Poland - "will be added in the near future as NATO expands with a training center and a Rapid Response Force in support of its on-going and expanding missions," he said.

The colonel explained that the garri-

son is an enduring organization with several constructions projects coming on-line over the next few years "to make Chièvres a better place."

Construction projects in the local area include a car wash, new Army lodge, community club, new commissary, new vehicle processing center, new fitness center and leased housing developments in and around the local communities.

While describing the new projects supporting NATO, Nowowiejski explained, there is a difference in supporting NATO in the Chièvres area of operation and being a part of NATO.

"We are not SHAPE, but we support SHAPE," he said to the crowd of em-

ployees that included American and Belgian civilian employees and Soldiers.. "We want all of you to believe in and subscribe to our vision and goals.

"Our vision is to be the U.S. service member's 'Community of Choice' with premier facilities and services in support of NATO," he said. "We want to provide the highest level of support as we support the highest levels of NATO."

"This important and I hope you will support it," he said. "In the end, we want to be an award-winning community."

GoArmyEd *continued from page 1*

assistance for Soldiers, though it is up to the Soldier to check with the command and to sign up."

Karczewska explained that the rules for tuition assistance will not change, "but the new portal will reinforce the system" as Soldiers won't be able to sign up for classes unless they meet eligibility requirements.

"The portal keeps track of all of a Soldier's educational data including how much tuition assistance is still available," she said. "Soldier-students will be able to download course work and upload their homework as they use the comprehensive educational management portal."

Karczewska said the education center staff will have more time to advise and counsel Soldiers once the new system is operational.

"A true, anytime, anywhere higher education program is just a few months away," she said of the new on-line system. "Soldiers seeking to further their education and better themselves, no

matter where they are stationed or where their mission takes them is coming to fruition. Whether they have family or work shift work, they can learn on their own time, at their own pace from a menu of 91 colleges currently enrolled at GoArmyEd."

One USAG Benelux Soldier, Staff Sgt. Jessica Harmon, a Military Police investigator, currently studies criminal justice on-line.

"The first five years I was in the Army I was deployed everywhere," Harmon said of her service to the nation prior to being assigned to the Benelux.

Since she arrived for duty here in December 2003, Harmon has completed 51 semester hours towards an associates degree and is set to graduate in August.

"I can control my class work," said the mother of an 8-year-old son, Tadd, who has to balance her family and shift work with her educational goals.

Deployed to Bosnia, Albania and Kosovo during her first enlistments

when there was no education centers downrange, her drive toward her degree had the additional benefit of helping her meet the standards for promotion to staff sergeant.

"Serving in Belgium is the perfect place to earn your college degree," she said. "This assignment and the role I have here as an MP allows me to take several night courses and on-line courses.

"The local education centers work with you, advise you and help you stay focused," she said. "Ela really pushed me into EArmyU and helped me set up and create a degree program."

"I have pushed the EArmyU program since to where even my supervisor started taking classes," she said. Her Soldier-husband Nathan also takes courses.

Interactive Customer Evaluation

ICE lets voices be heard

The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux is warming up to "ICE", the Interactive Customer Evaluation system. ICE is a great way for customers to submit suggestions, compliments or complaints to a Department of Defense organization. The web-based feedback system is available to anyone, anywhere, with access to the Internet.

Simple to use, customers go to the ICE website <http://ice.disa.mil> and, with a few clicks of the mouse, find a location and give feedback about the quality of service received.

Visitors are invited to give their names

but can remain anonymous. Customers can request feedback by checking the 'response requested' block on their comment sub-

mission. If no name or address is provided, however, direct feedback to the customer is impossible.

Frequent military travelers will also discover another important benefit of ICE. Users can comment on any facility at any U.S. installation in the world that uses the system.



The ICE program is an empowerment tool which provides feedback from the community which supplies important trend data enabling educated decisions about improvements of community life programs and issues for Soldiers, civilians and family members.

The USAG Benelux ICE program is managed by the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office. For additional information, call DSN 361-5071.

About the

Meteor-Heraut

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- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.

- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.

- Submit articles in plain text and separate photographic files, but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.

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Copy and photographs are due by noon 11 calendar days before publication date.

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Apr. 10	Apr. 21	May 8	May 19	June 5	June 16	July 17	July 28



Chièvres Garrison...serving SHAPE/Chièvres communities

Community Notes

Newcomers Briefing

The newcomers' orientation program "Learning About Belgium" will be held March 27-30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SHAPE Events Center. The program includes a field trip to downtown Mons. Call DSN: 423-4269 or Civ: 065-44-4269 for more information.

Iron Shapian

The SHAPE Battalion is hosting an Iron Shapian contest April 28 at the SHAPE Main Gym. The competition includes push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, dips and a four-mile run. Call DSN: 423-3766 for more information.

SHAPE Athletics

SHAPE will host a fun run Mar. 28 at 12:30 p.m. Those interested may sign up 15 minutes prior to the run or by calling DSN: 423-3993

SACEUR sports volleyball competition will be held Mar. 30. Call DSN: 423-4717 for more information.

Summer hire program

USAREUR - The Civilian Human Resources Agency, Europe (CHRA-E) will begin accepting applications for the 2006 Summer Hire program on March 31, for jobs that will start on June 26 and last through Aug. 4.

The Summer Hire program offers young people ages 14-22 employment for the summer in locations throughout Europe. Jobs are available in the areas of clerical, labor, and child development work.

Requirements: Summer Hire is open to family members between the ages of 14 and 22 years old.

❑ Participants must be unmarried family members of an active military member or DoD civilian who will turn age 14 by June 26, and cannot reach their 23rd birthday prior to the end of the program on Aug. 4.

❑ Summer Hires employed in child development positions must be at least 16 years old.

Vacancy announcements, a web-based application form, and instructions will be available on the CHRA-E website at www.chra.eur.army.mil/ from March 31 to May 12.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their resume through the automated application process though applications may also be submitted via email to Summerhire_Resumes@cpoceur.army.mil or via surface mail to: CHRA, CPOC Europe Region ATTN: Summer Hire Program Unit 29150 APO, AE 09100.

For more information log onto www.chra.eur.army.mil.

Chapel Bell Tower

Designer merges history, ancestry, culture into Gothic community tower

By J.D. Hardesty
Meteor-Heraut Editor

A new Chièvres chapel bell tower was dedicated March 23 on Caserne Daumerie, combining the history of the bells with Belgian culture and tradition.

The new structure, designed by Patrick Retour, an engineer with the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux's Directorate of Public Works, stands as a testament to the American-European friendship that exists between the communities.

"The challenges I faced while designing the tower were to blend the new structure into the installation's environment so that it doesn't distinctively stand out, but compliment the chapel and the bells," he said. "I took what was existing from our ancestry - cathedrals with mostly Gothic architecture, added more height and more feeling so visitors would feel a higher power when they see it."

The new tower, a Gothic skeleton of simplicity, houses two bells.

The smallest bell, Dominique, weighs 80 kilograms and was named after the daughter of Lt. Mathieu Thys, a Belgian pilot with the 7th Wing who died in a jet crash four days before the Great Air Show in Chièvres in 1960 by the Belgian Acrobatic Patrol. The bell symbolizes all of the children whose fathers

died while serving at Chièvres Air Base from 1950 to 1964.

Thys' daughter, Dominique, who rang the bell when it was originally dedicated on Oct. 5, 1960, was on hand to ring the bell carrying her name at the rededication ceremony. Retour rang the larger bell, Marie, named in honor of Our Lady of Lorette - the patron saint of the Belgian Air Force. The larger bell weighs 110 kilograms.

Actual construction of the tower was "made by our craftsman," Retour said. "It had to be light, easy to handle and integrate into the environment."

Retour explained it took three days to design and a week to draft the blue prints because the blue prints and calculations were created by hand "similar to how our ancestors would have designed it to balance its dimensions."

While the original prototype was built in wood by a DPW carpenter, two of the organization's welders joined the bent metal into "a balanced structure."

The ratio of the tower is "thin for elevation yet has the third crossing arc a little larger much like a cathedral in Gothic architecture," he said.

"The folks who designed, built and installed this bell symbolize for all of us the critical role each and everyone must play if we are to be successful as the USAG Benelux," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Byron Simmons from the Caserne Damerie Chapel. "When these bells ring, may the world be reminded that freedom is not free, but is purchased with the blood of patriots from a hundred different countries around the world."



PHOTO: File

The daughter of Lt. Mathieu Thys, Dominique, rings the bell named after her and dedicated to her father. The bells can be seen in the new bell tower outside the chapel.



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Patrick Retour, an engineer with the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux's Directorate of Public Works, stands next to the Chièvres Chapel bell tower he designed to house the 80-kilogram bell Dominique and 110-kilogram bell Marie. The bell tower, located next to the new chapel on Caserne Daumerie was rededicated March 23.

USAG Schinnen...serving the tri-border community

AER Campaign fundraiser starts

By LaDonna Davis

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

In an effort to raise money for Army Soldiers, families, retired veterans and survived spouses of Army Soldiers who need financial assistance during hardships, U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen will begin fund raising for the Army Emergency Relief (AER) campaign at the end of the month.

This will mark the Army's 64th annual AER fundraising campaign. The money that's raised goes towards helping Soldiers and their families get their feet back on the ground during times of financial need through no interest loans and/or grants.

In 2005, the community raised more than \$4,700 for the AER fund, assisting 41 Soldiers and family members through loans, grants and educational benefits totaling \$68,179.

Though the goal of the local AER campaign is to create 100 percent awareness among Soldiers and veterans so that they are aware of the campaign and how contributions potentially help a fellow Soldier in need; raising a monetary amount equal to or more than last years contributions would be a great benefit to those Soldiers and family mem-

bers in the Tri-Border community who need AER funds admits Ed Carter, Schinnen's AER campaign coordinator.

"We don't really want to make a dollar goal; the goal is 100 percent contact," Carter says. "We would like to shoot for over \$5,000 and it would be great if we could get \$10,000 in contributions. We would like to see our community members, our active duty members, and retirees help AER out and help out their own. The motto is 'AER helps their own.'"

Whether it's by giving a loan to a widow who can't pay an overdue bill or helping a retired Soldier with car maintenance or giving a grant to a family whose home was destroyed during a natural disaster, the AER funds ensure that financial support and assistance is available for all Soldiers and their family members in their time of need.

"It's a really good deed to say that you contributed to an organization that you can actually see come back to the community," said Carter. "96 percent of the money that goes in to AER goes back out into the community, only 4 percent goes to administrative fees."

To contribute to Schinnen's AER campaign, contact the ACS center at DSN 360-7450 or civilian (0031) 046-443-7450.



Two teaming together

Netherlands Law Center brings Dutch, U.S. legal officials together.

U.S. military officials along with Dutch military and civilian law enforcement officials met at the Netherlands Law Center at the Treebeek Education Center March 10 for a law enforcement gathering and social in an effort to increase communication efforts between Dutch law and military law enforcement officials.

"Such communication is incredibly important given the special statuses Americans enjoy who are assigned to the Netherlands under the NATO SoFA (Status of Forces Agreement)," said Maj. Michael McGovern, the Netherlands Law Center officer in charge.

This marks the first meeting in over 22 months that an audience which includes both U.S. military law officials and Dutch law officials have met. But starting with this meeting, McGovern hopes to change that.

"I'd like to have these meetings at least once every 6 months. We know that everyone is busy, but it's good to get together like this," he says.

By conducting these meetings, law enforcement agencies are given the opportunity to put faces with names in regards to their U.S. and Dutch counterparts, and are given a refresher on how to handle situations where an



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

U.S. and Dutch law officials gather at the Netherlands Law Center in Treebeek to help promote better communication efforts between the Dutch and the U.S. when it comes to legal matters that affect U.S. Soldiers stationed overseas and their family members.

American citizen gets into legal trouble while in the Netherlands.

"When soldiers and civilians get into trouble, we're treated a little differently, and a lot of the Dutch officials don't know that," said McGovern. "These meetings are geared towards learning who the faces are and what the difference is between the status of American Soldiers or civilians assigned to military duty versus just an American who would be here on a tourist visa."

During the course of the meeting, attendees got a chance to voice concerns in the way legal matters are communicated between the Dutch and U.S., help come up with solutions to make

communication easier and more efficient, and were given a refresher on whom to contact in the event of certain legal situations.

But the ultimate goal of these meetings is to ensure that U.S. Military Police have good contacts with local authorities so that all soldiers, civilians and family members stationed in the Netherlands have a safe stay.

"We want to pursue a policy where everybody knows about Americans being in the area and know how to deal with them," says Jarin Nijhof, the Dutch attorney advisor. "Everyone is trying to get to the same goal. To make it a nice pleasant place for the Soldiers."

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Community aims at prevention

By LaDonna Davis

Schinnen Public Affairs Office

For the first time in military history, a sexual assault awareness month has been recognized in an effort to help prevent sexual assault incidents from happening and create awareness of what sexual assault is and how it can be reported.

On June 14, 2005, the Army changed its reporting policy for Soldiers who are victims of sexual assault. To promote the changes and help prevent sexual assault between service members, the month of April has been declared sexual assault awareness month.

The Department of Defense 2006 sexual assault awareness month theme is sexual assault prevention begins with you, and U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen is doing its part to make sure that community members are aware of how to prevent becoming a victim of sexual assault.

In order to increase awareness and prevention of sexual assault, Schinnen's sexual assault prevention and response program has come up with a variety of activities throughout the month of April that include a self defense class, a first responder training course, a sexual assault skit and a safe date class.

"Our goal is to make the community aware of potential sexual assault incidents and how to prevent them," says Nancy Spangler, Schinnen's sexual assault response coordinator.

Studies show that the military trend for sexual assault cases are where the perpetrator and victim are from junior enlisted soldiers ages 17-26. By gearing some of the sexual assault and prevention activities, such as the safe date's class and a community skit, towards a younger audience, Spangler hopes that the rate of sexual assault incidents will decrease.

"Many teenagers don't realize what sexual assault is," says Spangler. "They just think it's a part of how things are and how they're supposed to be treated."

But regardless of age, gender or rank, sexual assault can happen to anyone. By creating awareness and educating people on what constitutes sexual assault and how to report it, Spangler hopes to decrease the rate of sexual assault incidents in the Army and give victims the knowledge and proper support if a sexual assault incident happens to them.

"The more people are educated the more people are aware of what constitutes sexual assault," says Spangler. "We're hoping it will happen less."

USAG Brussels...serving the tri-mission community

West Point commandant visits BAS upperclassmen

By Thad Moyseowicz
USAG Brussels Public Affairs Officer

Brig. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, the commandant of the U.S. Corps of Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy, visited Brussels American School (BAS) March 10th and addressed over 35 BAS upperclassmen and several faculty members about West Point.

The general was introduced to the students by Dr. Debby Berry, BAS principal, who emphasized how unusual it was for a major U.S. university's dean of students to be visiting BAS.

Scaparrotti was in Brussels at the invitation of the West Point Society of the Benelux and had been jointly invited by Berry and Lt. Col. Patrick Kilroy, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Brussels, to discuss West Point with interested upperclassmen.

"I guess I'm known on the West Point campus as our 'Darth Vader,'" the general quipped. "Being not only the commandant of cadets, but also a West Point graduate myself, I think I can talk to you about our institution without being too much of a salesman."

Scaparrotti proceeded to describe in detail the U.S. Military Academy - its beautiful campus, its history, its reputation as a first-rank academic institution, and its mission of growing the future leadership of the U.S. Army. He also discussed the application process, especially the requirement for nomination by one of several sponsors.

Most of the lively discussion that followed was precipitated by questions from the BAS students.

Scaparrotti explained how West Point offered a wealth of academic majors - more than 30 - "so it's likely that we offer something for nearly everybody."

One student asked the general to describe student accommodations. His one word answer "Austere!" occasioned considerable laughter.

Scaparrotti then went on to explain how West Point accommodations were very comparable to what his own two children were experiencing at civilian universities "only we make sure they're neater."

Several questions concerned the high school pro-



PHOTO: Thad Moyseowicz

Brig. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, commandant of the U.S. Corps of Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy (right) talks with Nate Buckley, a junior at Brussels American School March 10th. Scaparrotti talked with more than 35 underclassmen during his visit to the school.

files of successful West Point applicants. The typical profile, he explained, featured an average SAT score of 1260, with grades in the upper percentile of a high school class, and heavy emphasis upon class leadership and varsity athletics. "With a mean SAT of 1260, you can see that some of our cadets obviously scored above the mean while others scored below." Scaparrotti went on to explain that the Academy was particularly interested in indications of leadership potential. Finally, he emphasized that service in the Army is physically demanding, hence the interest in applicants with a demonstrated interest in and aptitude for sports.

In response to a question from a faculty member, Scaparrotti estimated that the cost of a four-year West

Point education per cadet was approximately \$350,000.

The good news, he explained, was that this cost was borne by the U.S. taxpayer. He also mentioned that cadets receive a monthly salary amounting to one-half that of a Second Lieutenant. Berry explained, "Hey, not only do they pay your tuition, but they actually pay you to attend!"

Scaparrotti closed by wishing the BAS students the best of luck and inviting them

to visit the USMA campus, and, especially to consider applying for the academy's Summer Leaders Seminar. The latter is held at West Point for rising high school seniors and is a week-long experience, designed specifically to educate prospective applicants about the academy.

"It's an excellent program," he said, "and really gives you a flavor for the academy in a way that a talk by me can't do justice. Applications are taken on line. A very high proportion of attendees at the Leaders Seminar who subsequently apply to West Point are accepted." He urged interested students to work closely with their high school guidance counselor as well as to talk to any of the several USMA graduates in the area.

Shakespeare's tragedy still a stage hit

By Thad Moyseowicz
USAG Brussels Public Affairs Officer

The Brussels American School (BAS) staged its own performance of Shakespeare's immortal tragedy and love story, Romeo and Juliet, March 3rd with the evening performance drawing an audience of more than 350 from Brussels community for an evening of first-rate entertainment and evening dining.

The production was directed by John Stanton a teacher at the school. Why did he choose Romeo and Juliet? "I was reading it again this past summer and thought to myself, 'I can see this on the stage at BAS.'" Stanton said. "I believe Romeo and Juliet to be Shakespeare's best representative work. It contains all the essential Shakespearean elements - verse, romance, human conflict, comic relief, tragedy- and, of course, action."

BAS does not have its own dedicated drama department, so the production's staging required tapping into both the community's dedicated volunteer base as well as across the school's own departmental lines.



PHOTO: Thad Moyseowicz

Romeo (Mike Flint) purchases poison from Apothecary (Anika Rummery) during Brussels American School's performance of the Shakespearean tragedy March 3.

"Three volunteer parents spent weeks working costumes and props. Another family built and painted the sets. Several of my colleagues pitched in and helped with different technical matters. Our Parent-Teacher-Student Organization generously provided funding. We could not have done it without them," says Stanton.

But Stanton quickly credited the students involved in the production of "their" play. In addition to 25 actors, the student body provided numerous set builders, backstage crew, video producers and other technical specialists. Several cast members did double duty, not only acting in the production, but also helping the backstage crew. One talented student artist came up with an eye-catching poster that was widely disseminated throughout the Brussels Community.

"The students were awesome," says adult volunteer and head props coordinator Sarah Russell. "They somehow successfully juggled their academic workloads, varsity sports, learning their lines, rehearsals and all the other demands of preparing for the production in the weeks leading up to Friday night." Based upon the students' dedication and the audience's enthusiastic reception, Russell opines that BAS might do well to consider offering drama full-time.

As production night arrived, Stanton thought to himself that "I'll just sit in my car with the fake nose and glasses and a cell phone and have someone call me when it's safe to come into the auditorium." Somehow, it all came together. "The production was extremely satisfying to watch. The students worked so hard on so many lines, stage directions and delivery," says Stanton. "Then again, I knew the BAS students could handle such a production. People in the audience told me afterwards that they never knew Shakespeare could be so funny or that the Romeo and Juliet story was so good."

BAS Senior and first-time actress Maria Baudoinjoux was thrilled to be cast as Juliet. Baudoinjoux seconds Stanton's comment. "The cast's enthusiasm really brought the play together and made it a wonderful experience."

DoD release sexual assault report

Department of Defense Public Affairs Office

The Department of Defense announced recently the release of the second annual report on the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program.

The report provides data on alleged sexual assaults reported to military officials during calendar year (CY) 2005 in which members of the armed forces are victims or offenders.

The data indicate that the department has made great progress in establishing a robust and effective sexual assault prevention program.

All of the military services implemented aggressive education and training programs designed to build a climate of confidence.

Fundamental changes to reporting procedures were also adopted across the department. This integrated program resulted in 2,374 reported allegations of sexual assault involving a service member as either a victim or perpetrator.

Previous DoD studies and commissions found that some victims chose to forego support services rather than participate in the investigative process.

To address this barrier, the department instituted two methods of reporting: restricted and unrestricted. Unrestricted reporting gives victims support services and initiates the criminal investigation process. There were 2,047 unrestricted reports in CY 2005. Restricted reporting allows members to access care without automatically starting the investigative process. Implemented in June 2005, there were 435 restricted reports.

The new restricted reporting option accounted for 65 percent of the 674-report increase over CY 2004. In addition to removing barriers, DoD designed this

option to provide the time, care and empowerment necessary for some victims to request a criminal investigation of their assault.

In 2005, 108 (or 25 percent) of the victims who chose restricted reporting subsequently changed to unrestricted reporting.

At the close of the reporting period on Dec. 31, 2005, criminal investigations had been completed on 1,386 cases. This resulted in 163 unidentified alleged offenders and 44 alleged offenders where either civilian or foreign authorities had jurisdiction.

Another 641 alleged offenders had cases that were either unfounded, unsubstantiated or there was insufficient evidence to prosecute. When the reporting period closed, 352 offenders were awaiting final action and another 274 had punitive action completed.

The 2006 report will detail the status of the 661 investigations that were pending completion and the action taken on the 352 offenders awaiting final action.

This second annual report demonstrates the department's commitment to eliminating sexual assault from its ranks by removing barriers, creating a climate of confidence in reporting and ensuring care is accessible for all victims.

Recognizing that this will be a long term effort, the Joint Task Force for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response has transitioned to a permanent office under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. The department will continue to refine the SAPR program and ensure its vigorous implementation throughout the armed forces.

Proclamation

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Whereas, sexual assault affects active duty and civilian women and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and

Whereas, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional impact, sexual assault may also have associated consequences of posttraumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, eating disorders and suicide; and

Whereas, the Chièvres Garrison Community is doing its part in addressing sexual assault by providing 24-hour on-call services to victims, responding to emergency calls, offering support and comfort to those impacted by sexual assault during medical exams, criminal proceedings, and empowering those impacted by sexual assault to chart their own course for healing; and

Whereas, it is important to recognize the dedication of the individuals who provide services to victims and work to increase the public understanding of this problem; and

Whereas, we know the following trends exist regarding sexual assault: ☐ Most incidents occurred in the barracks or the victim's personal living area; ☐ Most barracks rooms were unsecured; ☐ Most victims delayed reporting; ☐ Alcohol is often a common factor in date or acquaintance rape

Whereas, this Command, First Responders, and members of this community are committed to eliminating sexual assault through education regarding prevention and awareness; and

Now, Therefore, as the Chièvres Garrison Commander, I do hereby proclaim April 2006, Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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